

FREE

GRATIS

TRI-LINGUAL

# IRONBOUND VOICES

Vol. 19 No. 4

Winter 1997



*In our fight for a better life, voting is one of our tools -  
USE IT!*

English p. 1 - 9, Português p. 10 - 12, Español p. 13 - 15





### ***Congratulations***

*Toni Thomas, Director of the Ironbound Community Corporation's Afterschool Program, was one of three 1997 Artists-in-Residence at the Newark Museum during January. Ms. Thomas's paintings were featured in the gallery, and a special Arts Workshop and Reception were held. Shown above is Ms. Thomas, with one of her paintings.*

### ***Free Tax Help Available***

**Newark Public Library**  
5 Washington St.  
733-7800

**Wed. 5 - 7 PM**

Feb. 24

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

April 7, 14

**Saturdays 10AM - 12 noon**

February 22

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

April 5, 12

## **Ironbound Family Services Center**

*Free Information & Assistance*

**WE CAN HELP YOU WITH:**

- ♦ Family Problems
- ♦ Emergency Food
- ♦ Immigration
- ♦ Jobs & Job Training
- ♦ Health Care
- ♦ Legal Problems
- ♦ Financial Crisis
- ♦ Social Services

**344-7208**

**95 Fleming Ave. Newark, NJ 07105**



**United Way**

**It brings out the best  
in all of us.™**

## **Eco-Justice Sabbath**

*"Hope For The Flowers"*

**Sunday, April 6, 1997  
3 PM**

**An Interfaith Service About Our Earth  
Our Environment, and Our Role**  
with featured speaker: Trina Paulus, author  
of "Hope For The Flowers"

**St. Stephan's United Church of Christ**  
Wilson Ave. & Ferry St.

Coffee hour following the service.

Free will offering to benefit  
the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste.

*For more information contact:  
Tiwana Steward at 589-3353.*



# People Making History:

## "Our Neighborhood and Our Tax Money"

*A Chance To Vote March 11 About The Future of Riverbank Park*

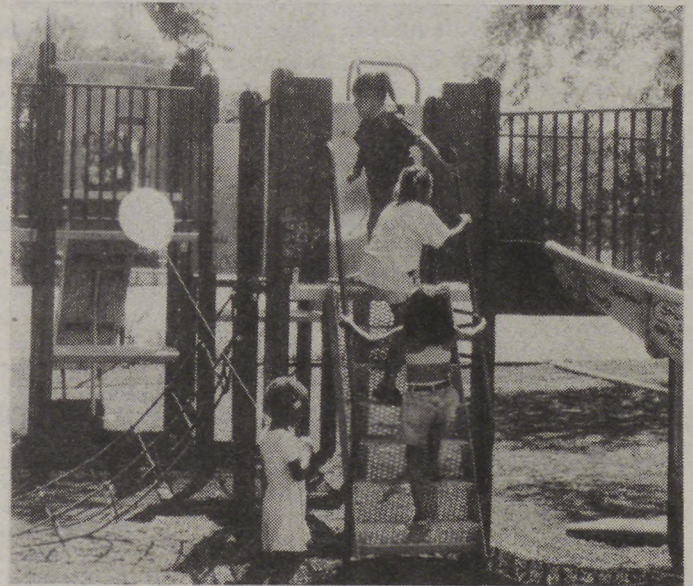
Ironbound residents working together led a successful effort to get a referendum about the future of Riverbank Park. The referendum, scheduled for March 11, means that Newark voters will be able to vote on whether the City of Newark should risk \$11 million tax dollars to guarantee bonds to build 2 stadiums, which, if built, would eliminate Riverbank Park.

"March 11 will be a very important - even historic - day for Ironbound," said Manuel Lavin, a leader of the **Save the Park at Riverbank (SPARK) Coalition**. "The proposal to eliminate Riverbank Park, and build stadiums holding up to 15,000 people there, will have a tremendous impact on the quality of life in our neighborhood. Thousands of people signed petitions and hundreds came out to meetings and marches, to voice their opposition to losing Riverbank Park. But we were ignored. Now we have forced them to hold a referendum, and each of us has a chance to have a say about this proposal which will have a tremendous effect on our community. The referendum is a unique opportunity which we got by the hard work and cooperation of many, many people working together. **Now, it's up to us to go out and vote.**"

Although the opportunity for referendums exists in state law, it is not easy to do, and it doesn't happen often. Residents must gather the signatures of 15% of the number of voters in the previous general election. Over 4000 signatures were submitted by SPARK, and the referendum petitions were certified by the Newark City Clerk as valid.

"The plan to eliminate Riverbank Park was developed primarily by people who do not live here," said Joe Nardone. **"Now those of us who do live here have a chance to say what we think, which is what should have been done. After all, it is our neighborhood, and our tax money."**

The referendum is just the latest in a series of expressions of neighborhood opposition to the



possible loss of Riverbank Park.

In April, 1996, Ironbound residents first saw the designs for the proposal to take all of Riverbank Park to build 2 stadiums when they were published in the *Maplewood Record*. There had been no public hearings about the plans.

When the Ironbound Community Corporation organized one or two public meetings to inform the public about the plans, including a large meeting in July 1996 at Wolff Church, hundreds of people came out and opposed eliminating the park. Ironbound residents formed **Save Riverbank Park Coalition** (which later became SPARK), and this group has led the fight ever since.

Many steps have been taken, including:

- \* An initial petition drive (separate from referendum petitions) where over 3000 signatures were collected on a petition calling for the preservation and upkeep of Riverbank Park. \$1.2 million is in the County budget for repairs.
- \* Residents went to numerous City Council meetings, and Essex County Freeholder meetings (even when they were scheduled at inconvenient times, or without much notice).

**cont. on p.5**



## THANK YOU!

On behalf of United Way of Essex and West Hudson, its participating agencies and clients, we would like to thank you for your continued support. Because of your generosity, children were nurtured, families were made whole, the hungry and the homeless were sheltered and fed, adults were taught to read, the chains of addiction were broken, youth became positive and focused and those stricken with AIDS were cared for. Remember, the United Way has always and will continue to be the "First Call for Help." By continuing your support of United Way you can make a real and lasting impact on our community. Listed below are the lead partnering agencies and their initiative areas. With your help, United Way of Essex and West Hudson supports 114 new initiatives, 66 lead agencies and 102 collaborations. *Imagine the difference we can make together.*

### CHILDREN

Ad House  
American Red Cross-Nutley  
ASPIRA of N J-G.A.T.E. Way  
ARC of Essex County  
Cerebral Palsy of Essex/W.Hudson  
Community Agencies Corporation  
East Orange Community Development Corp.  
Kids in Business, Inc.  
Newark Day Center  
South Ward Cultural Center  
St. Columba Neighborhood Center  
St. James AME Community Service  
Tri-City People's Corporation  
United Vailsburg Service Org.  
United Jewish Federation of  
MetroWest  
United Labor Agency  
Urban League of Essex County Volunteer Center of  
Essex County  
West Orange Community House  
YMWCA of Newark and Vicinity  
Youth Consultation Services  
Youth Development Clinic  
YWCA of Essex and West Hudson

### FAMILY

American Friends Service Comm.  
American Red Cross of Essex  
ARC of Essex County  
Babyland Nursery  
Cancer Care  
Catholic Community Services  
Cerebral Palsy of Essex and West Hudson  
Choices, Inc.  
Community Agencies Corporation  
Essex Council Boy Scouts  
Family Service Bureau of Newark  
Family Service & Child Guidance  
FOCUS Hispanic Center  
International Youth Organization  
Ironbound Community Corporation  
Irvington Counseling Center  
Donald Jackson Neighborhood Ctr.  
La Casa de Don Pedro  
Main Street Counseling Center  
Mental Health Association of  
Essex County  
Newark Emergency Services for Families  
Offender Aid and Restoration  
Orange Valley Social Settlement  
Salvation Army-Newark  
Senior Service Corporation  
Unified Vailsburg Service Org.  
United Labor Agency  
Urban League of Essex County  
Youth Consultation Services

### CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

American Red Cross-Nutley  
Boys & Girls Club of Newark  
Essex Council Boy Scouts  
Family Service and Child Guidance  
International Youth Organization  
The Bridge/Irvington Counseling Center  
Joint Connection  
La Casa de Don Pedro  
YWCA of Essex and West Hudson

### HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS

American Red Cross-Essex Chapter  
Apostles' House  
Cerebral Palsy of Essex/ W. Hudson  
Covenant House  
East Orange Community Development Corp.  
Essex County Legal Aid  
Focus Hispanic Center  
Isaiah House  
Newark Emergency Services for Families  
Salvation Army-Newark  
SHARE of New Jersey  
Unified Vailsburg Services Org.

### AIDS

Apostle's House  
Babyland Nursery  
Catholic Community Services  
Family Services Bureau  
Isaiah House  
The Leaguers, Inc.  
Newark Community Health Center  
St. Columba Neighborhood Center  
Visiting Nurse Assoc. of Essex Valley

### UNDEREMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT

Arc of Essex County  
CAHACO-Caribbean Haitian Council  
FOCUS Hispanic Center  
International Youth Organization

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Catholic Community Services  
Community Agencies Corporation  
CURA  
Joint Connection  
Newark Fighting Back  
Newark Renaissance House  
North Ward Cultural Center  
Pathway to Independence  
Turning Point  
Urban League of Essex County  
YMWCA of Newark & Vicinity

### ILLITERACY

Cerebral Palsy of Essex/W. Hudson  
FOCUS Hispanic Center  
Great Commission on Literacy  
International Youth Organization  
Isaiah House  
LYA of Newark and Essex County  
LYA of West Hudson  
Newark Literacy Campaign  
Senior Service Corporation  
Urban League of Essex County

To find out more about  
United Way of Essex and  
West Hudson, its programs  
and its partners, call  
**1-800-ENABLE-96.**



**United Way**  
of Essex and West Hudson



## *People Making History: Referendum* *cont. from p. 3*

\* SPARK went to court. Although the case was dismissed, the Judge warned the developers that they must comply with all agencies regulating the project.

\* In response to SPARK's demand for a Public Hearing, the Essex County Freeholders held one at the Portuguese Sports Club on Oct. 15. Of the 500 people who came, almost the entire crowd, and 40 out of 50 public speakers, opposed the elimination of Riverbank Park.

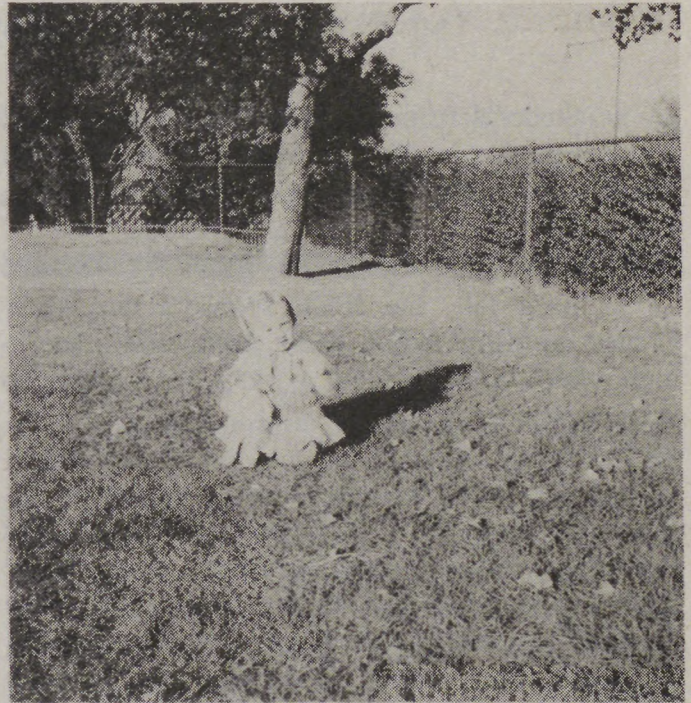
\* Residents held a candlelight march and vigil down Ferry St. on November 21.

Ironbound residents have received support from Newark residents in all parts of the city in their fight to save the park. As one resident of James St., Bill Chappel, puts it, "I object to giving \$11 million of our taxes to build a stadium for Rick Cerone. The City and Essex County have been cutting back on services which are important to people. We need money for schools, affordable housing, jobs, rebuilding our sewer lines, police personnel, street cleaning and many other things. We are facing a tax revaluation. We should not be helping private businessmen with our tax dollars. I am also against locating this stadium where there is no parking, and building it in a public park that is much used."

*Dear Editor,*

*It is not allowed if the people vote to save the park, to build the stadiums anyway. Also why don't you build the stadiums where you're going to build the replacement park? I hope what I'm saying works.*

*Newark resident, age 6*



*Enjoying Riverbank Park - past and present! Above, a small Ironbound resident enjoys the park in 1952. Below, Lito Miranda has fun with his family in 1996.*





## Peace Poster Winners!

Students from several different schools had winning posters in the **1996 Peace Poster Contest** sponsored by the **Ironbound Peace Education Project (IPEP)**.

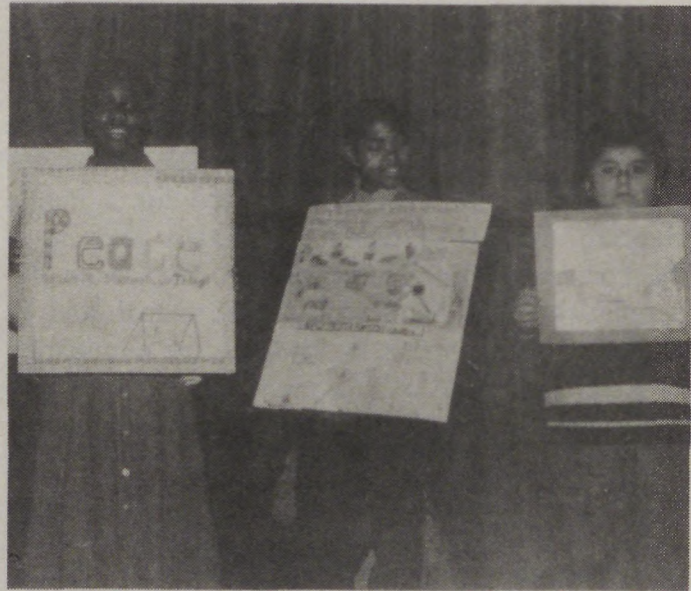
Each fall, the **IPEP** sponsors the Poster Contest to encourage students, from first grade to high school, to think about world peace and how to achieve it.

This year's winning students were: from St. Casimir's Academy - Christopher Barc, Tracy Rodrigues, Natalie Gonzales, Brian Alves, David Santos, and Kimberly Tavares; from St. Lucy Filippini Academy - Lisa Simoes, Melissa Pereira, and Carla Ruivo; from Good Counsel Grammar School - Nicole Timi; from Wilson Ave. School - Bruno Marques, and Michelle Amador; from Link Community School - Catherine Johnson and Pierre Bethea-Emanuel; from St. Vincent's High School, Veronica Baranona; and from East Side High School, Miriveis Jamali and Sandra Fernandes.

A volunteer committee of judges, led by Harriet Krassner of Maplewood, found it difficult to pick the winners, since so many fine posters were entered.

At a spaghetti Dinner held in December at St. Stephan's United Church of Christ, the winners received certificates and checks from the Dr. & Mrs. Israel Bernstein Peace Prize Fund. Dr. Bernstein had his practice on Wilson Ave. for many years, and his family was active in groups working for peace and social justice. The Bernstein family contributes to continue the memorial peace prize in his memory.

Those who came enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by Roni Faulkner, and served by a team of volunteers. Texeira's Bakery again donated a beautiful cake, which said "Peace On Earth." Thank you to all who participated, and congratulations to this year's winners!



*From left to right, some of this year's winners: Catherine Johnson, Pierre Bethea-Emanuel, and Bruno Marques.*

## Afterschool Program Playwrights

*A number of students from the Ironbound Community Afterschool Program were featured in a Star Ledger article on Jan. 12, 1997 in the STAGE column. The students, ages 9 to 11, are taking a course offered by the Newark Young Playwrights Program to learn how to write plays. The plays are directed and performed by professional actors.*

*Some of the plays presented this year included: "The Boy Problem" by Melissa Rivera, Vera De Matos and Melissa Perez; "We Love Ice Cream" by Daniella Bexiga and Fatima and Rosaria Matos; "The Corner" by Melissa Rivera and Joelle Correia, and "The Haunted House" by Tommy Heredia and Michael Rivera. Nearly 250 students in the fourth grade and older are enrolled in the annual Young Playwrights Program. For more information, contact the Ironbound Community Corporation at 465-0947 or the Playwrights Theatre at (201) 514-1787.*



## *Will Ironbound Get Even More New York City Garbage?*

Mayor Rudolph Guilinai of New York City said he is still planning to shut Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island by the year 2001, and that there should be no trouble "exporting" their garbage to the places that already take New York city garbage, including the American Re-Fuel incinerator in Ironbound. At a news conference recently, Mayor Guilinai said, "You got to do it quietly. You got to do it sensibly. You can't put somebody in the position of being targeted as a place that is going to get all that garbage."

The Ironbound incinerator already takes 37, 465 tons of garbage from New York City (from the Sept. 1996 DEP report), almost the same amount as all the garbage produced in Essex County (41, 219 tons)!

"We are paying taxes for an incinerator that was built too big in the first place," said Joe Nardone from the **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste (ICATW)**. "Now we are importing garbage from all over the place. We pay high taxes and high garbage rates, and we have to suffer the consequences from whatever goes into the air. All because Essex County went ahead with a terrible project, and a terrible contract with this garbage incinerator."

Meanwhile, on January 25, members of ICATW attended a meeting of environmental groups from around the state who are calling for an end to incinerating garbage in New Jersey. The groups decided to work together to put pressure on the New Jersey state legislature to stop using incinerators as a method to get rid of residential and commercial garbage, and to close down existing incinerators.

Children who live very close to the Warren County incinerator had elevated cadmium levels in their blood. The acceptable level of cadmium in blood is zero.

The group is planning to hold other meetings, write letters, and have other statewide

activities to educate New Jersey residents about the dangers of incineration.

For more information, contact Tiwana Steward, at 589-3353.

## **Keeping Out The Sludge**

The **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste** is continuing its fight against the siting of a sludge facility in Ironbound. ICATW held a Press Conference outside the proposed location of the sludge facility, on Avenue A. in Ironbound.

"We believe that Ironbound has more than its share of toxic waste facilities," said Tiwana Steward, from ICATW. Newark has more than 200 toxic waste sites, with over 50% of those in Ironbound.

The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) has signed a contract with Wheelabrator Clean Water of New Jersey to bring about 20,000 tons of sludge to its site on Avenue A., where it is supposed to be mixed with lime and other chemicals. Grant Conselyea, who lives near the proposed site, said residents are concerned about the odors the plant will give off, and the truck traffic, 24 hours a day, going through neighborhood streets. The proposed site is near South St. school, a number of food handling operations, and homes.

ICATW members and supporters met with representatives from the United States Environmental Justice Coordinator's office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Jan. 24, to point out that Ironbound already has many other toxic waste facilities, and that as a matter of "environmental justice" not all the facilities should be placed here.

A number of families who live near a sludge plant in Ohio filed a suit against the companies involved because of health problems they believe are caused by sludge.

The City of Newark has filed suit against PVSC to stop the location of its sludge plant at Avenue A.



## *Remember The Facts!*

1) This proposal calls for 2 stadiums which will seat up to 15,000 people in our congested urban neighborhood. One stadium would be built for a private minor league baseball team, whose spokesman is Rick Cerone. The other stadium would be for international soccer. Because of community opposition, it is now being publicly stated that the community will be able to use these facilities. But SPARK has seen no written contracts which outline and guarantee community access, cost, or the times during which the community can use the stadiums.

**2) There is \$1.2 million in the Essex County budget right now, which could be used to clean up the park.**

3) The stadium proposal is connected to the construction of a new jail, also to be located in Ironbound. On Sept. 4, 1996, the Star Ledger quoted Mayor James public relations person as saying, "If a baseball stadium is not a go, it's going to be a problem with the jail." Newark public officials agreed to accept the jail, only if a stadium was built.

4) Essex County developers have not given the community traffic and parking studies which were requested. They say that people will park in the Kinney lots near Penn Station and take "jitney" busses to the stadium. They say a new parking garage will be built, but have refused to say where.

5) Another minor league baseball stadium is being built (with private money) in Montclair, less than 10 miles away. The developers have done no marketing studies to show that 2 stadiums, so closely located, can succeed.

6) The City of Newark will risk \$11 million of its taxpayers money to help Rick Cerone get a stadium. The County of Essex will risk \$11 million of taxpayers money.

7) After Ironbound residents protested, a "replacement park" was proposed. The location, at Brill St., between Raymond Blvd. and the Passaic River, is polluted. Many residents feel it is dangerous because it is so close to the river. Although the developers say they will build a walk way over the highway, other residents are very concerned about children and young people crossing the busy, 4 lanes of traffic on Raymond Blvd.

7) The proposal will also include Independence Park, as announced at the Public Hearing on Oct. 15. A baseball field will be put at the Oliver St. end of the park. It is a very short field, 146 ft. from homeplate to the fence) and is suitable for small children only.

### *Ironbound Stadium: Still Waiting After All These Years*

Ironbound residents are still waiting for the City to begin construction work at the Ironbound Stadium site. In a phone interview Mr. Lazarus, Director of Newark's Engineering Department, said work on the fields has not begun. The design for field B is supposed to be completed by the end of February. The design is to include a soccer field, a baseball feild, volleyball court, and new lights and drains. Mr. Lazarus said the work would probably take 6 months to complete.

The work on the Pool, which was supposed to replace the Wilson Ave. Bathhouse, has not begun. A bid has been received for constuction.

Mr. Lazarus also said that the City is doing work on the Little League field on Hennessy St. to get it ready for the spring season. Mr. Lazarus said that the mechanical systems for the ice rink at Ironbound Stadium were fixed and the building has been heated this winter.

In a related development, several hundred Senior League members (teenagers) have no field on which to play baseball this spring, due to the closing of Riverbank Park.



## *Riverbank Park Voted For "Historic Preservation"*

The Newark Historic Preservation and Landmarks Commission voted unanimously at its meeting February 4, 1997 to recommend that Riverbank Park be declared a historic site. In a presentation about the park, Commission member Jim Lecky stated that Riverbank Park is part of the Essex County Park system, a series of parks designed by the Olmstead Brothers. The noted landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmstead, designer of Central Park in New York City, participated in the design for Riverbank Park from 1890 to 1895. Six acres of the park were built between 1907 and 1910. In the late twenties, the park was enlarged.

**Dr. Clement Price, a well known historian in Newark, and professor at Rutgers, said that Riverbank Park is extremely historic because it is one of the few parks built in an area which was highly populated, highly unhealthy, and highly polluted in a city.**

Franklin Murphy, former governor of New Jersey and cofounder of the Newark YMCA, owned a factory in the Ironbound and many of his employees lived here. In the 1980 Essex County Park Commission Annual Report, he states: "Although it is the smallest of the 12 county parks, even in its unfinished state, one of the most largely used and is an excellent example of the wisdom and importance of locating breathing spaces in thickly settled portions of the community."

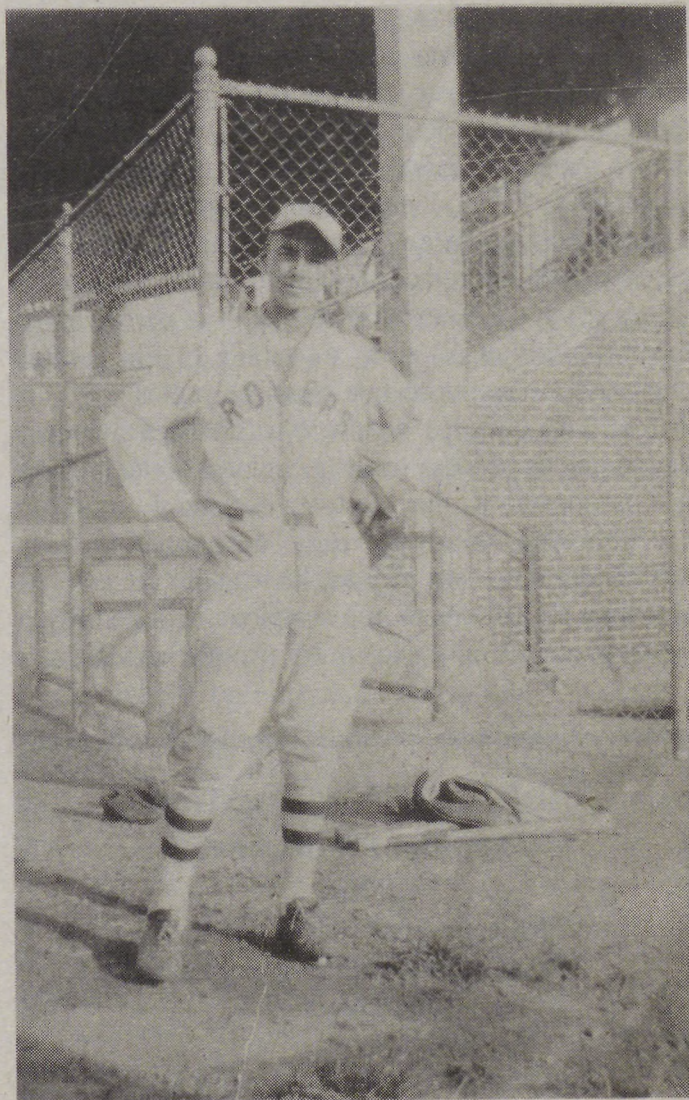
The 1926 report of the Park Commission to Essex County records the issuance of \$400,000 in County bonds to acquire additional parkland and facilities in Riverbank Park, "where undeveloped vacant spaces can be utilized before appropriation to dwelling and commercial purposes." The park nearly doubled in size at this time.

The design for the grandstand, the children's shelter and the remodeled field house were done by the Olmstead firm. The field house is already designated on the national registry of historic sites.

In an article about the park, Mr. Lecky wrote, "It is shameful that the County has allowed this irreplaceable artifact (the park) to deteriorate through lack of maintenance, supervision and

enforcement of its own regulations. It is outrageous for the stewards of the parks they hold in the public trust to assume that they can obliterate a piece of landscape architecture which so clearly embodies the ideals of the age, its designers, and the public-minded citizens that built it."

The recommendation for local historic designation goes to the City Planning Board on March 17, and then to the Newark City Council for final decision.



*A 1935 photograph shows David Schnegelberger, left fielder for the Newark Rovers, a semi-pro baseball team, in Riverbank Park. Mr. Schnegelberger, now 83, is one of the leaders of SPARK, the group fighting to save the park.*



## Lembrem-Se Dos Factos:

\* Esta é uma proposta para 2 estádios os quais abrigarão um total de 15,000 pessoas na nossa já congestionada area. Um dos estádios será construído para uma equipe baseball privada da qual Rick Cerone é o representante. O outro estádio seria para futebol internacional. Devido à oposição da comunidade, diz-se agora que o público em geral terá acesso a estas obras, no entanto SPARK ainda não viu quaisquer contratos por escrito, nos quais será definido o acesso, custo ou horário em que a comunidade possa usar tais obras.

\* A proposta para a construção do estádio está ligada à construção da nova cadeia, a qual também destinada ao Ironbound. Newark concordou com a cadeia do Essex County, se o estádio fosse construído. Isto foi publicado nos jornais. O Star Ledger de 4 de Setembro trazia um artigo sobre o assunto onde um relações públicas do Mayor Sharpe James dizia, "Se o estadio não tem luz verde, então haverá problemas com a cadeia." Em outras palavras, ambos terão que arrancar juntos.

\* Os autores do projecto do Essex County dizem que as pessoas (os espectadores) estacionarão nos parques da Kinney perto da estação de comboio e depois irão de autocarro até ao parque. Apesar dos residentes terem pedido, há mais de um ano, os projectos de estudos para o estacionamento e tráfico na área, estes ainda não foram providenciados.



**\*Currentemente o Condado de Essex tem no seu orçamento \$1.2 milhão par arranjar e limpiar o parque Riverbank.**

\* Um outro estádio de júnior baseball está a ser construído em Montclair (com dinheiros privados), a menos de 10 milhas. Não foi feito um estudo de mercado para que se justifique a necessidade de 2 estádios.

\* A cidade de Newark arriscará \$11 milhões de dollars para garantir as acções que serão vendidas para esta construção. O Condado do Essex arriscará outros \$11 milhões (dinheiro das taxas).

\* Depois dos residentes do Ironbound se manifestarem, um parque "suplente" foi prometido ser construido na Brill St. ao longo do rio Passaic, entre o Raymond Boulevard e a água. Este local está poluído, é muito perigoso por ser tão junto ao rio. E, para se chegar lá tem que se atravessar Raymond Blvd, uma rua muito movimentada. As autoridades dizem que uma passagem (ponte) irá ser construída sobre a auto estrada.

\* A proposta incluí também o Independence Park (parque dos mosquitos), como foi anunciado no dia 15 de Outubro de 1996 em audiência pública. Baseada na informação oferecida pela Secção de Parques do Essex County (o qual é responsavel por esta parte do projecto), um campo de baseball será criada ao fundo do parque, junto a Oliver Street. É um campo muito curto (146 pés de balisa até à rede), será apenas para crianças.

### **Sabbath Eco-Justica**

**Domingo, 6 de Abril  
3 PM**

**Um culto ecumênico sobre nossa terra e  
nosso meio-ambiente & nossa  
participação.**

**Igreja Unida de Cristo (UCC)  
St. Stephan  
(Wilson Ave. & Ferry St.)**

Salgados serão servidos após o culto.



# O Povo A Fazer História:

## "O Nosso Bairro e Os Nossos Impostos Fiscais"

### *Uma Oportunidade de Votar Na Questão do Parque do Riverbank*

Os residentes do Ironbound unidos sucederam no esforço para conseguir um referendo acerca do futuro do parque do Riverbank. O referendo marcado para o dia **11 de Março**, significa que os eleitores de Newark poderão decidir votando se a cidade de Newark poderá arriscar 11 milhões de dollars provenientes de impostos para garantir obrigações financeiras necessárias à construção de 2 estádios os quais se construídos eliminarão o parque do Riverbank.

"O dia 11 de Março sera um dia muito importante - mesmo histórico - para o bairro do Ironbound," disse Manuel Lavin, um dos organizadores do (Coaligação A Salva O Parque De Riverbank: SPARK). "A proposta para eliminar o parque do Riverbank, e construir estádios com capacidade para 15.000 espectadores terá um impacto tremendo na qualidade de vida do nosso bairro. Milhares de pessoas assinaram petições, centenas de pessoas assistiram às reuniões e manifestações para mostrarem a sua oposição à perda do parque do Riverbank. Mas nos fomos ignorados. Agora forcamos a cidade a efectuar um referendo, e **cada um de nós tem uma oportunidade de dar uma opinião acerca desta proposta a qual terá um efeito tremendo na nossa comunidade.** O referendo é uma oportunidade impar que conseguimos com muito esforço e a cooperação de muita gente trabalhando unida. Agora, é da nossa repsonsabilidade votar."

Apesar de existir na lei do estado a oppção do referendo não é facil consegui-lo e raras vezes se consegue. Os residentes teem de conseguir assinaturas de 15% do numero de eleitores que votaram nas ultimas eleições. Mais de 4000 assinaturas formam submetidas e a peticao do referendo foi certificada pelo escrivão da cidade de Newark como válida.

"O plano para eliminar o parque foi primaria mente inventado por gente que não vive aqui," disse Joe Nardone. "**Agora nós os que vivem aqui**

**podemos dizer o que sentimos o que deveria ter sido feito antes. Alem de tudo é o nosso bairro e os nossos impostos."**

O referendo é simplesmente a ultima duma série de opiniões do bairro em oposição à eliminação do Parque do Riverbank.

Em Abril de 1996, os residentes do Ironbound viram pela primeira vez os planos da proposta da ocupação do Parque com a construção de 2 estádios quando aqueles foram publicados no jornal Maplewood Record. Não houve qualquer reunião pública de apresentação dos planos.

Quando a Ironbound Community Corporation organizou uma ou duas reuniões para informar o publico, incluindo uma grande reunião em Julho de 1996 na Wolff Church, centenas de pessoas manifestaram a sua oposição à eleminação do parque. Os residentes formaram uma coligação, a salva o parque de Riverbank (que mais tarde deu lugar à SPARK) e desde essa altura este grupo tem liderado o cambate.

Fizeram-se muitas coisas, incluindo:

1) Uma tentativa duma petição inicial (separada das petições para o referendo) onde se angariaram 3000 assinaturas a favor da preservação e conservação do Parque do Riverbank.

2) Estar presente e falar em muitas assembleias municipais e do condado - mesmo quando estas foram datadas para horas inconvenientes ou sem informar o publico adquadamente.

3) Em resposta ao pedido da SPARK para se efectuar uma assemblia pública o executivo do condado promoveu uma reunião no Sport Clube Português em 15 de Outubro de 1996. Apareceram 500 pessoas e 40 dos 50 oradores opuseram se à eliminação do parque.

\* Um procissão de velas na Ferry St. em 21 de Novembro.

Os residentes do Ironbound tiveram a apoio dos residentes doutros bairros de Newark na luta

**cont.p.12**



## Parque Do Riverbank

cont. p. 11

para salvar o parque. "Eu recuso dar 11 milhões de dollars de impostos para construir um estadio para o Senhor Rick Cerone," disse Bill Chappel, um residente da James. St. "A cidade e o condado de Essex teem eliminado serviços que são importantes para o publico. Precisamos de dinheiro para as escolas, habitações decentes, empregos, reconstrução das linhas de esgotos, limpeza das ruas, policias, e muitas outras coisas importantes. Querem-nos impor uma reaviliação que fará subir os impostos. Não devemos ajudar os investidores privados com os nossos dollares de impostos. Sou tambem contra a localização do estado onde não ha estacionamento, e contra a construção num parque publico devidamente utilizado."

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## *Desviando ou Desperdícios dos Canos*

O **Comité do Ironbound Contra Produtos Tóxicos (ICATW)** continua a sua luta contra a instalação de uma estação para tratamento de lamas no Ironbound.

O ICATW promoveu uma conferência de imprensa no local proposto para tal estação, ou seja a Avenida A., localizada no bairro no Ironbound.

"Supomos que o Ironbound tem mais que a sua percentagem de estações de produtos tóxicos," afirmou Tiwana Steward, membro do ICATW. Newark tem mais de 200 estações de tratamento de produtos tóxicos.

A Comissão de Esgotos do Vale do Passaic (PVSC) assinou um contrato com a companhia Weelabrator Clean Water de New Jersey para transportar cerca de 20 mil toneladas de lamas para o local indigitado da Avenida A, onde serão misturadas com cal e outros produtos químicos. Grant Conselyea, que vive perto do local indigitado, assim como outros residentes, estão muito preocupados com o que tal estação lançará para o ar, e também sobre o tráfego pesado de camiões, 24 horas por dia, percorrendo as ruas da vizinhança.

O local proposto é muito perto da escola da South St., assim como próximo de fábricas de produtos alimentícios e residências.

Membros do ICATW e outros adeptos reuniram-se com representantes do coordenador judicial do Meio Ambietne dos Estados Unidos no passado dia 24 de Maneiro, fazendo-lhes notar que o Ironbound tem já demasiadas instalações de tratamento de produtos tóxicos e que, por uma questão de justiça, nem todas as estações do género deveriam ser aqui instaladas.

Um número de famílias que vive próximo duma estação de tratamento de lamas no estado de Ohio moveu já um processo judicial contra as companhias responsáveis, em virtude de problemas de saúde que se pensa tenham resultado do tratamento de lamas que existe próximo das suas residências.

A cidade de Newark iniciou um processo judicial também contra a PVSC.



## Haciendo Historia:

### "Nuestro Barrio, Nuestras Contribuciones"

#### *Una Oportunidad de Votar por el Futuro del Parque Riverbank*

Trabajando juntos, los residentes del Ironbound ganaron su campaña por un plebescito sobre el futuro del Parque Riverbank. La votación se realizara el 11 de marzo. Proporcionará una oportunidad a los votantes de Newark para opinar si la ciudad debe o no arriesgar \$11 millones de dólares de contribuciones para garantizar los bonos que serían emitidos para la construcción de dos estadios deportivos, los que ocuparían el sitio del actual parque Riverbank.

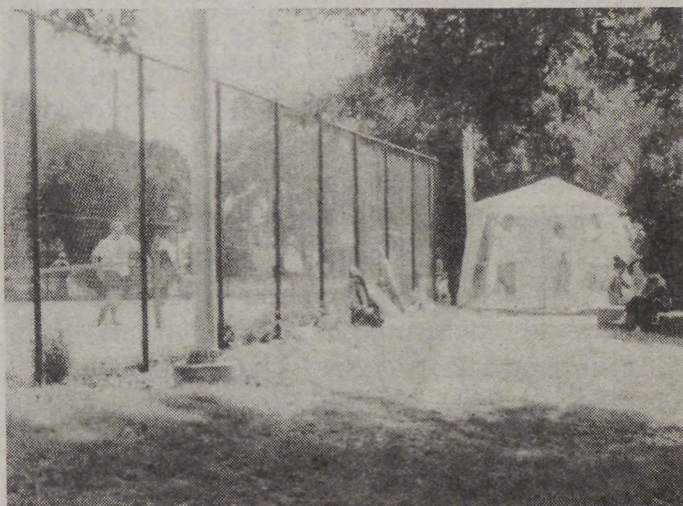
"El 11 de marzo será una fecha muy importante para el Ironbound, una fecha histórica," opinó Manuel Lavin, líder del grupo Conservemos el Parque Riverbank (SPARK).

"La propuesta de eliminar el parque y construir unos estadios con cupo para quince mil personas tendría un efecto profundo en la calidad de vida de nuestro barrio. Miles de personas firmaron peticiones y cientos participaron en mítines y marchas para expresar su oposición a la pérdida del parque. Los hemos obligado (a las autoridades) a realizar este plebescito. Esta es una oportunidad única, la que logramos con el esfuerzo y colaboración de muchísimas personas. Ahora, nos tocar ir a votar."

Aunque el derecho de plebescito está contemplado por las leyes estatales, no es cosa fácil lograr que se haga, por lo tanto, no se dan con frecuencia. Los vecinos tuvieron que conseguir las firmas de 15% del número de votantes que participaron en los últimos comicios municipales. Se reunieron más de 4.000 firmas.

"Este plan para eliminar el parque es impulsado por personas que no viven aquí," opina Joe Nardone. "Ahora, los que sí vivimos aquí tendremos la oportunidad de expresarnos, lo que se hubiera hecho desde el principio. De hecho, se trata de nuestro barrio y de nuestras contribuciones."

El plebescito se dará tras una serie de



manifestaciones por parte de los vecinos del área a la pérdida del parque Riverbank.

En Abril de 1996, los residentes supieron por primera vez del proyecto, cuando el periódico **Maplewood Record** publicó dibujos de una propuesta de los arquitectos, los que abarcaban todo el espacio del parque para los dos estadios. En aquel momento, no se había realizado ninguna audiencia pública para divulgar el proyecto.

En respuesta a la noticia, el Ironbound Community Corporation convocó varias reuniones para informar al público sobre el proyecto. La más importante de éstas se realizó en Julio en la Iglesia Wolff, donde cientos de vecinos expresaron una negativa rotunda ante la propuesta, formando la **Coalición Para Preservar el Parque Riverbank** (ahora llamado **SPARK**).

Se tomaron varios pasos dentro de la campaña de oposición al proyecto:

- 1) Una primera campaña de peticiones (distinta de parte de la petición posterior para el plebescito).

- 2) Presencia y testimonio en reuniones del Consejo Municipal y las de la Junta del Condado de Essex.

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## El Future Del Parque Riverbank

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3) Tras la edemanda de SPARK que se celebraran audiencias publicas para tratar el asunto, la Junta del condado de Newark se hizo presente en el Portuguese Sports Club el 15 de octubre. Más de 500 residentes acudieron. De 50 qu se dirigieron a la Junta, 40 manifestaron su oposición al proyecto.

4) Se realizó una vigilia a luz de velas, y una marcha por la calle Ferry el 21 de noviembre.

Residentes de otros barrios de la ciudad se solidarizan con los vecinos del Ironbound en esta lucha. "No estoy de acuerdo que se regale \$11 millones de dolares de los contribuyentes para construirle un estadio al Sr. Rick Cerone," dijo Bill Chappell, vecino de la calle James.

"La ciudad y el condado la pasan solo recortando servicios importantes para la comunidad. Necesitamos fondos para escuelas, para construir viviendas decentes, para la renovación del alcantarillado, limpieza de nuestras calles, personal de policia y otras muchas cosas importantes. Enfrentamos una revaluación de nuestros impuestos, que aumentará los impuestos sobre propiedades. No es este el momento para ayudar a ningun empresario particular con nuestras contribuciones. Me opongo tambien a la idea de ubicar este estadio en un sitio que carece de espacio para parqueos."

### *"Eco-Justicia Sabbath"*

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*Domingo, Abril 6, 1997  
3 PM*

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## La Lucha Contra Desperdicios De Los Caños

El **Comite de Ironbound Contra Basuras Toxicas (ICATW)** estan continuando su esfuerzos contra una facilidad de desperdicios de los caños.

ICATW hubo en una conferencia de prensa afuera de el lugar propuesto en la avenida A en Ironbound.

En Newark existen mas de 200 facilidades toxicos.

La Commision de Passaic Valley Sewage(PVSC) firmo un contrato con Wheelabrator Agua Limpia de N.J. para traer 20,000 toneladas de desperdicios toxicos al lugar en Avenida A., donde se esta supuesto ser mezclado con lime (un mineral) y otras sustancias.

Grant Conselyea y otros residentes que viven cerca de el propuesto lugar están preocupados de los olores y quimicos que la facilidad produce y el tráfico de camiones 24 horas al dia andando por la calles de su comunidad.

Los miembros y los apoyadores se juntaros con los representate de el coordinador de justicia de el medio ambiente en enero 24 para apuntar que Ironbound ya tiene muchas facilidades que producen desperdicios toxicos y que no todas de ellas deben ser construidas aqui, "es justicia medio ambiente."

Los familias que viven al lado de la facilidad en Ohio llevaron a corte las companiñas por problemas de salud que ellos creen fueron causador por los quimicos.

La ciudad de Newark estan llevando a corte la PVSC por la construcción de la planta de desperdicios de caño en la Avneida A.





## Recordando Los Hechos:

\* Esta propuesta llama para dos estadios el cual acomodará hasta 15,000 personas en nuestra comunidad urbana que esta tan congestionada. Uno de los estadios será construido para una liga de beisbol privada, representada por Rick Cerone. El otro estadio será para el soccer internacional. Como la comunidad se a opuesto ahora andan diciendo públicamente que la comunidad podrá utilizar esta facilidad pero SPARK no ha visto un contrato escrito que garantice el acceso, el costo o los horarios en cual los grupos comunitarios puedan usar estas facilidades.

\* La propuesta del estadio esta conectada con la construcción de la nueva prisión, la cual sera también construida en Ironbound. (Newark aceptó la construcción de su nueva carcel si el estadio fuese construido). Esto fue publicado en el periodioco el Star Ledger el 4 de Octubre del 1997, cuando el representante del gobernador, Sharpe James, dijo, "Si el estadio de beisbol no se logra, vamos a tener un problema con la construcción de la cárcel." En otras palabras una cosa viene con la otra.

\* Los contrastistas del condado Essex dicen que los visitantes usarán el parque Kinney cerca de la estación de trenes, y usaran "jitneys" (autobuses) hasta el parque. A pesar que la comunidad pidió que se hiciera un estudio sobre el dilema del parqueo todavía no reciben respuesta.

\* Otro estadio para la liga menor esta siendo construido (con dolares privados) en Montclair, menos de 10 millas de distancia. Ningun estudio ha analizado si económicamente los dos estadios van a salir adelante.

\* La ciudad de Newark va a ariesgar \$11 millones de los dolares de impuestos para garantizar bonos para este proyecto. El condado de Essex ariesgará \$11 millones de sus dolares de impuestos.

\* Despues que los residentes del Ironbound protestaron la eliminación de Riverbank Park, la construcción de un parque alternativo fue propuesta. El parque iba a estar localizado en Brill St. cerca del Rio Passaic y Raymond Blvd. Esta localidad esta contaminada y los residentes piensan que es muy peligroso por su cercania al río y por que para

llegar al parque habría que cruzar Raymond Blvd., una intersección muy congestionada y con demasiado tráfico. Los oficiales dicen que se crearía un camino sobre la autopista para llegar la parque.

\* La propuesta incluía el parque Independence así como fue anunciado el 15 de Octubre del 1996 en la reunión publica. Basado en la información proveida por Essex County Parks Department, los cuales estan envueltos en este proyecto una cancha de beisbol sera construida en el parque de Oliver St., un espacio muy pequeño solo sera (146 pies en total) solo podran usarlo los niños pequeños.

**\*Actualmente existen \$1.2 millones de dolares en el presupuesto del condado de Essex desdinados para limpiar y arreglar el parque del Riverbank.**

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